

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-17, 19, 21-23, and 25-57 are pending in the application, with 35, 52, 53, 54, and 57 being the independent claims. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-15, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 25, 27-31, 33-35, 37, 40-44, and 46-50 are sought to be amended. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 18, 20, and 24 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 54-57 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

For example, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-15, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 25, 27-30, 33-35, 37, 40-44, 49, and 50 are amended herein to change their dependency from cancelled independent claims. Furthermore, claims 12, 14, 21, 23, 29, 31, 41, 43, 44, 46, and 47-50, include amendments to clarify antecedent basis, and to more clearly and broadly recite the claimed embodiments of the present invention.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 52 and 53 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In paragraphs 3-5 of the Office Action, claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 41 was rejected for citing the limitation "said second surface of said stiffener" in line 3. Applicants have amended claim 41 to delete the word "second" from line 3 of claim 41 to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 46 has been similarly amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-19, 25-27, 29-31, 33-42, and 45-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,184,580 to Lin. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and request that it be withdrawn.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have incorporated features of allowable claims 8 and 24 (now cancelled) into independent claims 35, 54, and 57. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to pursue any cancelled subject matter and/or the subject matter of the claims prior to any amendment.

Applicants have cancelled independent claims 1 and 18, and added new independent claims 54 and 57. New independent claims 54 and 57, and independent claim 35 (as amended) essentially track cancelled claims 1 and 18, incorporating the limitations of allowable claims 8 and 24 (e.g., where a wire bond is attached to a ridge of

the heat spreader). Claim 35 incorporates various other amendments in order to broaden its scope. Claims 54 and 57 incorporate additional differences from cancelled independent claims 1 and 18 to broaden their respective scopes.

Thus, Applicants assert that independent claims 35, 54 and 57 patentable over Lin. Furthermore, after the amendments above, dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 37-42, and 45-47 depend from claim 54, and dependent claims 19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33, and 34 depend from claim 57. Thus, Applicants assert that dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 33, 34, 37-42, and 45-47, which depend from claims 54 and 57, and dependent claim 36, which depends from claim 35, are also patentable over Lin, for at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 19, 25-27, 29-31, 33-42, and 45-47 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Lin and Huang

In paragraph 41 of the Office Action, claims 4, 6, 7, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0045644 A1 to Huang. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and request that it be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 7, and 20 were cancelled above. As described above, independent claims 54 and 57 are patentable over Lin. Furthermore, Applicants assert that Huang does not provide the missing teachings. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 54, and claims 21-23 have been amended to depend from claim 57. Thus,

Applicants assert that claims 6 and 21-23 are patentable over Lin and Huang, alone or in combination, for at least the reasons described above, and further in view of their own features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Lin

In paragraph 49 of the Office Action, claims 11, 15, 28, 32, and 48-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and request that it be withdrawn.

As described above, independent claims 54 and 57 are patentable over Lin. After the amendments above, claims 11, 15, 48-51 depend from claim 54, and claims 28 and 32 depend from claim 57. Thus, Applicants assert that claims 11, 15, 28, 32, and 48-51 are patentable over Lin for at least the reasons described above, and further in view of their own features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Lin and Lewis

In paragraph 58 of the Office Action, claims 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,611,238 to Lewis *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and request that it be withdrawn.

As described above, independent claims 54 and 57 are patentable over Lin. Furthermore, Applicants assert that Lewis does not provide the missing teachings.

Claims 43 and 44 have been amended to depend from claim 54. Thus, Applicants assert that claims 43 and 44 are patentable over Lin and Lewis, alone or in combination, for at least the reasons described above, and further in view of their own features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statements

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action states that the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 26, 2002, were received. Despite having a date stamped postcard indicating that the references were received by the U.S. Patent Office on June 26, 2002, Applicants are preparing to resubmit these documents for the Examiner's convenience and consideration. Applicants will resubmit the documents at the U.S. Patent Office soon in a timely manner.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's consideration of the documents submitted with Information Disclosure Statements on August 30, 2002, October 11, 2002, and November 20, 2002. Applicants note that another Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the present application on May 8, 2003, and an Information Disclosure Statement is concurrently filed with the present Amendment and Reply. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents submitted with these two Information Disclosure Statements, and provide an indication of his consideration by forwarding to Applicants initialed copies of the respective Forms 1449.


Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey S. Weaver", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey S. Weaver
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 45,608

Date: 11-17-03

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600